



61 Years of DX-cellence

October 2009



BULLetin

*"If you need him
get in there and
work him"*

The Southern California DX Club Newsletter est. 1947

The Southern California DX Club is a group of dedicated men and women active in the amateur radio community who enjoy communicating over the air with other radio amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to its members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be published as time and space permit.

Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the club. Reuse of copyrighted materials require the original author's permission.

Any questions regarding this newsletter or its articles should be addressed to the editor, Bill
n6rv@scdxc.org

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except April, June and December.

Please check the club web site for events and details at
<http://www.scdxc.org>

If you are in the area please say hello on our repeater
W6AM/R145.48,(-) 100Hz PL



NEXT MEETING

October 8, 2009, 1930 HRS

• Guest Speaker

Wayne Overbeck, N6NB

VHF / UHF DXing and VHF / UHF Rover Contesting

• Meet Dick Martin, W6WVW

Arnie Introduces DXer and Fellow Member from the Southern reaches of SCDXC

• Another Member makes the Summit! Congratulations to Keith, K6LD !

• CQWW SSB Contest Strategy

• Holiday Party Announcement

• Where Did the Sunspots Go? NASA Says it Knows....

Making friends all over the world using the magic of Amateur Radio.
Sponsors of the International DX Convention at Visalia, since 1949



THE PREZ SEZ

Tom Paquette, N6OT,
President – Southern California
DX Club
n6ot@scdxc.org

Hi Folks... Made any new contacts?? I'm not sure if the conditions are getting a bit better or not? But I keep trying and am happy to say I was able to contact a new country over the weekend...Hooray!!

Mel is still working hard on allowing us to still be able to continue to meet at our regular meeting place at Syd Kronenthal Park. We have the room for next months meeting in October. Hopefully for November too. That leaves December which we do not have a meeting due to the holiday party. It would be nice if we could continue to meet in our regular place and have things worked out by the end of the year so we can start out fresh in January. Either we will remain at Syd Kronenthal Park or be in our new location. Thanks for the help Mel and stay tuned on what happens

And speaking of December Its seems its just around the corner? Although we do not have a meeting in December we do have our Holiday Party! Please don't miss the opportunity to enjoy a day at Orange Hill Restaurant with lots of DX friends. It will be held on Sunday December 6th, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. Join us for a wonderful brunch offering breakfast, lunch and dinner items. Its all you can eat while you enjoy the people you meet! The cost is \$35.00 per person due by Nov. 23, 09.

We are also gearing up for the 61st Annual International DX Convention being held in Visalia on April 16, 17, & 18 in 2010. May seem a bit early but its not! There is lots to do and if you have a inclining to help? Check it out and see what you may want to help with. Volunteers are always welcome

This is it for now! 73 Everyone! Hope to see you at the October meeting of the SCDXC. Bring a Friend!

Tom Paquette N6OT
President SCDXC

Treasures Report August 2009

Income: \$332.25
Expenses: -\$602.00

Elections

January elections are only a few months away. Although the board can and does recommend a slate all elected positions are open to full members living in Southern California. (The Editor, and Repeater Chairman are appointed positions. One director slot is automatically filled by the past president.)

If you would like to nominate someone or if you would like to run, notify any officer or e-mail the secretary:

Secretary@scdxc.org

Nominations can be made from the floor on election day.

Officer Guidelines

In 2000 Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ, and Chuck Constantine, KR6C generated a set of guidelines for club officers. Steve Shane, W6NRQ, headed up an effort to update these guidelines. The board reviewed and approved them. They are posted at the site below:

www.scdxc.org/download/Officer_Guidelines_Rev-A.pdf

ARNIE'S BLARNEY

Arnie Shatz, N6HC,
Vice-President – Southern California DX Club
n6hc@aol.com or n6hc@scdxc.org



Hopefully, I am on my way to Midway atoll when you read this column. I will miss the October general meeting. When I return from the DXpedition, I plan to relate the inside story of K4M as the program for the November 12th meeting.

The SCDXC has contributed \$250.00 to the Midway DXpedition and will have the club name on the QSL card. A BIG thank you to the following individual contributors from the club: N6MXU (\$250), K6JW (\$100), N6OX (\$100), K0OK (\$50), and also WD6L, W6QE and K2PLF. You can individually contribute to K4M by visiting www.midway2009.com. If I missed anyone in this column, I'll be sure to recognize you in the next one.

Our September meeting was a great success. Randy Johnson, W6SJ, shared his expertise on how to carry out a one-person DXpedition. His insight and experience kept us on the edge of our seats. The addition of his bone fishing prowess was an added highlight. Thank you, Randy, for a very enjoyable and educational meeting.

The September raffle featured an emergency radio/flashlight, solar cell for car battery charging, Yaesu and three SCDXC tee shirts, a \$50.00 gift certificate from hamcity.com, a \$15.00 gift certificate from Ham Radio Outlet, an ARRL 2009 Handbook, three ARRL DX books, two gift certificates for the callbook CD, and a soldering gun. NY6Y had his ticket picked three times! The other winners included KA6DJK, KC6TOD, N6IC, N6MXU, N6OT, N6RV, NZ6L, W6CBA, W6DOE, W6IRD, W6SJ and W6ZPL. Congratulations to all the lucky raffle participants.

At the October 8, 2009 general meeting, our guest speaker will be N6NB, Wayne Overbeck, PhD, J.D., Professor emeritus at California State University Fullerton. Wayne has contributed much to the amateur radio community over more than 50 years as an author, innovator, DXer, contester, and antenna guru from both the legal and designer perspectives. Check out his web site: <http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/woverbeck/n6nb.htm> for his credentials and interests; you will be very impressed. His topic for presentation will be VHF/UHF DXing and rover VHF/UHF contesting. I think you will find this evening interesting and thought provoking. Don't miss it!

Mel (K6SY) and Carl (WU6D) continue to prepare for the International DX convention 2010. If you wish to volunteer to help with the convention, please contact either one of them. Remember, the success of the convention means the continued financial viability of our club.

DXer of The Year

Nominations for DXer of the Year 2009 are now open. Please forward your nomination letter to our club secretary.

The Clipperton Award

Applications for the Clipperton Award are now open. If you are a new member this is a great award to go after.

Please see the website below for details on both awards:

www.scdxc.org/awards.html#dxer

2009 Holiday Party Announcement

See the Holiday Party Announcement at the end of the BULLETIN or go to the following website:

www.scdxc.org/download/holiday_2009.pdf

Please don't forget to consider submitting a nomination for DXer of the Year (2009). You can access the SCDXC web site to review the guidelines and instructions for your nomination. The deadline for submission is February 28, 2010.

Save December 6, 2009 beginning at 11:00 am on your Daily Planner for the SCDXC Holiday Party at the Orange Hill Restaurant. Tickets will be \$35.00 per person and the registration form can be found on the SCDXC web site. A raffle drawing will be held at this event with a Yaesu FT-450 offered as the Grand Prize.

I hope you enjoy the program at the October 8th general meeting and I look forward to seeing you at the November 12th general meeting.

Arnie Shatz, N6HC
Vice-President, SCDXC
n6hc@aol.com



THE EDITOR

Bill Kendrick, N6RV,
Editor – Southern California DX Club
n6rv@scdxc.org

Onward and upward! You will notice some more changes to the BULLETin. First there are sidebars to the president's column and the vice president's column. These will carry announcements and information regarding the club. The president's sidebar will contain the monthly treasure's report. This month and until the end of the year there will be an announcement regarding elections. This month only the president's sidebar contains the announcement regarding the revised Officer Guidelines. In vice president's sidebar is the announcements for our two annual awards and the Holiday Party. The information in the sidebars will correspond to the responsibilities of those two officers.

You will also find a new column celebrating the DX accomplishments of our members. This column also has a sidebar containing all the DXCC status' reported by our members. Hopefully this will inspire us to turn on our radios and stay in the hunt.

Also included in this month's BULLETin is a strategy for the CQWW SSB DX Contest. The contest is the last full weekend in October. It took some time to make all the prediction runs and cobble together a plan of attack. I hope someone finds it useful. It would be nice if we could collect some data and compare it to the predictions. Again it is usually more beneficial to the person who prepares the analysis than it is for the reader. It seems real benefits come at a cost. If you spend the time looking over the information and poking around the bands the week before the contest you will gain insight into the conditions.

So did we get our fill of FT5GA? I want to hear reports of multiple band / mode contacts! So far I have heard them once and the pile up was furious!

Please look at the History column. It is interesting to look at the past and how it has affected us and still is affecting us!

I hope you enjoy this month's BULLETin. If you have any suggestions please let me know!

73, de N6RV

RUMORS ON THE BAND

A plethora of announcements, rumors, and serious DX fun

October and November are the most active for DXing. The activity churned up by all the contests fill up the announced operations webpages to the max. Sifting through them and determining which are gems for Southern California residents has been a real challenge. I encourage everyone to go to the websites listed and research the DXpeditions for the ones you need. I added a new DX website to the sidebar list, dx-info.de, which lists the DXpeditions by week, month, and prefix. This is a very well assembled website.

Don't forget the Midway operation beginning October 9th! Four club members are going to have the time of their life! We have to let them know we wish we were there also! Seriously, major operations like this are great for filling in band / mode countries. The latest details can be found at the following website: <http://www.midway2009.com/index.html>

Useful DX Sites

N0HR DXpedition Map
www.n0hr.com/wk34/

The DX Zone
www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/

The Daily DX
www.dailydx.com/

Announced DX Ops
www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

DXing.info
www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/

DX 425 News
www.425dxn.org/dxped/

Dx-info.de
www.dx-info.de

The number of DXpeditions going on this month is phenomenal. The list of those that were of particular interest below continues on the next page. **Blue call signs** indicate potential CQWW SSB participants. **Orange Information** indicate particularly rare entities and **Red information** indicate SCDXC member attended DXpedition. As you can see there are several really rare DXpeditions this month! Yahoo! Go get them.

| II | QTH | Start Date | End Date | Information | Website |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------|--|---|
| 4W6FR | Timor Leste | Now | 10/3/2009 | VK4FR | |
| 4W6AL | Timor Leste | Now | 10/3/2009 | CT1GPQ 40 30 20 17m mainly CW, SSB, RTTY dipole, loops | |
| FT5GA | Glorioso Island | Now | 10/5/2009 | F5PRU F5IRO F5TLN F5RQQ F4EGS F8CRS F5LPY 160-10m | http://glorieuses2008.free.fr/ |
| SV9/WB2GAI/p | Crete | Now | 10/5/2009 | | |
| SV8/PA1FJ/p | Crete | Now | 10/2/2009 | Samos Island | |
| SV8/PA3DEU/p | Crete | Now | 10/4/2009 | Alonisso Island, QRP Operation | |
| SV0XAN/5 | Dodecanese | Now | 10/10/2009 | | |
| Z29KM | Zimbabwe | Now | 10/15/2009 | | |
| 4W6FR | East Timor | Now | 10/31/2009 | | |
| FT5WO | Crozet Island | Now | 11/30/2009 | | |
| OD5/W5YFN | Lebanon | Now | 11/1/2009 | | |
| Z30MCWG | Macedonia | Now | 12/3/2009 | | |
| TO7RJ | Mayotte | Now | 10/21/2009 | DJ7RJ, 160-6, SSB, CW | |
| 7Q7BJ | Malawi | Now | 10/12/2009 | G4AHK | |
| 5B/HG3IPA | Cyprus | Now | 10/2/2009 | | |
| OD5F | Lebanon | Now | 10/6/2009 | | |
| TX5SPA | Austral Islands | Now | 10/12/2009 | | |
| 3D20CR | Conway Reef | Now | 10/10/2009 | DJ7JC DJ8NK DJ9ON DJ9RR DK9KX DL6JGN PA3EWP DJ9HX 160-6m SSB CW RTTY | www.conwayreef2009.de/ |

| Call | QTH | Start Date | End Date | Information | Website |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 5W8A & 5W0DW | Western Samoa | 10/2/2009 | 10/3/2009 | | |
| 7Q7CE | Malawi | 10/2/2009 | 10/20/2009 | IN3VZE, HF SSB, RTTY, PSK | |
| LX/PA6Z | Luxembourg | 10/2/2009 | 10/10/2009 | | |
| C91VM | Mozambique | 10/5/2009 | 10/23/2009 | | |
| E51NOU | Rarotonga | 10/5/2009 | 10/30/2009 | | |
| T30M & T30W | Western Kiribati | 10/6/2009 | 10/8/2009 | YT1AD & YU1DW | http://www.yt1ad.info/t31 |
| A52FJJ | Bhutan | 10/8/2009 | 10/20/2009 | JA1FJJ, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 | - |
| JW7WCA | Svalbard | 10/8/2009 | 10/13/2009 | LA7WCA | - |
| JW3ZIA | Svalbard | 10/8/2009 | 10/13/2009 | LA3IXA | - |
| JW/G4ATA | Svalbard | 10/8/2009 | 10/13/2009 | G4ATA | - |
| K4M | Midway | 10/9/2009 | 10/19/2009 | Multi-Op including club members! 160-6m SSB CW RTTYPSK | |
| YJ0PX | Vanuatu | 10/10/2009 | 10/18/2009 | AI5P | |
| TY1MS | Benin | 10/10/2009 | 10/27/2009 | PA8AD, PA3AN, PA3AWW, PD0CAV, Multi Op 160-6 | www.benin2009.com |
| ZY0T | Trindade | 10/11/2009 | 10/16/2009 | PY1NB, PY1ON, PY1YB, PY1ZV, 160-10 | http://riodxgroup.dxwatch.com/trindade-2009 |
| 8Q7AK | Maldives | 10/11/2009 | 10/28/2009 | G7COD, 80-12, SSB, CW | http://8q7ak.freewebspace.com/ |
| EA6/AA5UK | Balearic Islands | 10/14/2009 | 10/29/2009 | | |
| 6V7Q | Senegal | 10/15/2009 | 10/30/2009 | | |
| TX5SPM | Marquesas | 10/16/2009 | 10/22/2009 | FO5PB, SP3DOI, SP9PT, SP3CYY & Joe, 160-10 | http://fo2009sp.pl/ |
| ZK2DL | Niue | 10/19/2009 | 11/7/2009 | DL2FAG | www.qsl.net/dl2faq |
| V25Z | Antigua | 10/19/2009 | 10/28/2009 | | |
| S79MI | Seychelles | 10/2/2009 | 10/26/2009 | HB9ENI, Praslin Island | |
| FP/KV1J & FP/W6TOM | Miquelon | 10/20/2009 | 10/27/2009 | HF, SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 | www.kv1j.com/fp/october09.html |
| FH/DJ7RJ | Mayotte | 10/22/2009 | 10/25/2009 | | |
| PZ5M | Surinam | 10/22/2009 | 10/29/2009 | AJ9C | |
| AI5P/VK9N | Norfolk Island | 10/22/2009 | 10/31/2009 | AI5P, 160 - 6, CW, SSB, RTTY | |
| P29VCX | Papua | 10/22/2009 | 10/26/2009 | SM6CVX, G3KHZ, CT1AGF, G3USR, M0VTG, Tanga Island | www.425dxn.org/dxped/p29_2009/index.html |
| P29VLR | Papua | 10/27/2009 | 10/31/2009 | PA0JED, PA0TEN, PA1H, PA2AWU, PA2PKZ, PA4VHF, PA5CA, Jelmar, PE2HG PD9DX, Green Island | www.425dxn.org/dxped/p29_2009/index.html |
| XR0Y | Easter | 10/31/2009 | 11/15/2009 | | |
| VP8DIF | South Georgia | 10/20/2009 | 11/30/2009 | | |
| P29NI | Papua | 11/2/2009 | 11/9/2009 | | www.425dxn.org/dxped/p29_2009/index.html |
| 6W/EI6DX | Senegal | 11/7/2009 | 11/16/2009 | | |

DX ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Celebrate the Successes of Our Fellow Members!

SCDXC DXCC Standings (N6RV)

The SCDXC DXCC Standing sidebar has been added to the newsletter. There is room for several more! When it overflows one page we will run down a second! The list is based on the website standings and inputs I have received. Numbers are not verified and strictly on the honor system. This does not say that many of the numbers can not be confirmed by the annual DXCC report. If you would like to have your numbers added or updated fill out the web form at scdxc.org and send an email to n6rv@scdxc.org.

Another Member Reaches the Top of the Honor Roll! (N6RV)

As we mentioned last month the approval of the 7O1YGF for DXCC credit gave several of our members the last DXCC entity needed! I received notification that another one of our ranks has completed the arduous journey to the top!

Congratulations to Keith Lewis

K6LD

Please let me know if you have achieved a significant DXCC goal (5BWAZ, WAZ, 5BDXCC, Single Band DXCC, Single Mode DXCC or First Time DXCC) and we will post it here!

So Who Worked FT5GA or Any New One? (N6RV)

Well by the time you receive the October BULLETin the FT5GA DXpedition will be winding down. Who snagged this one for a new band country? You know I have been so busy upgrading my station and having a great time editing this newsletter I simply have not been on the air much. I just have to get my priorities in order!

C37URE on RTTY (N6RV)

Larry, K6YUI reported that he worked Andorra for number 326 on RTTY! Way to go Larry! Three more and you will have RTTY Honor Roll!

Please! Anyone with something to share send it to me! You may consider it insignificant but every accomplishment is noteworthy! If I do something stupid like forget a submission you have permission to use the nerf bat on my head. I am a trivia junkie almost nothing will be omitted!

SCDXC DXCC STADINGS

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| K6KII | 382 / 338 |
| K6YRA | 372 / 338 |
| N6UC | 365 / 338 |
| K6YUI | 360 / 338 |
| K6EXO | 360 / 335 |
| W6HT | 354 / 334 |
| W6SR | 353 / 338 |
| K5KT | 350 / 338 |
| K6FG | 350 / 338 |
| K6GXO | 350 / 338 |
| K8RD | 350 / 337 |
| N6RV | 350 / 337 |
| K6IPV | 349 / 331 |
| W8DX | 348 / 337 |
| W6OM | 347 / 337 |
| W6AUG | 344 / 337 |
| WA6WZO | 344 / 330 |
| W6OES | 344 / 329 |
| W6KK | 343 / 338 |
| N6AWD | 343 / 336 |
| K6LD | 343 / 338 |
| W6DCK | 342 / 336 |
| KC6X | 342 / 335 |
| WB6PSY | 342 / 333 |
| EU7SA | 340 / 336 |
| KB6KTV | 340 / 335 |
| W6YOO | 340 / 334 |
| WA5VGI | 342 / 336 |
| KR6C | 337 / 335 |
| N6OU | 334 / 329 |
| N6HC | 333 / 328 |
| K6UNR | 332 / 331 |
| W6QE | 332 / 324 |
| W6IRD | 327 / 324 |
| KJ6Y | 327 / 323 |
| K6SY | 312 / 310 |
| AD6KQ | 299 / 299 |
| WD6L | 295 / 292 |
| W6HB | 291 / 285 |
| N6DHZ | 286 / 284 |
| W6NRQ | 285 / 281 |
| N7CQQ | 268 / 266 |
| K6YR | 244 / 244 |
| K6DJ | 236 / 236 |
| K6VC | 227 / 227 |
| K6HCJ | 202 / 202 |
| WA6BOB | 202 / 198 |
| K6IRD | 193 / 193 |
| KT6LA | 161 / 161 |
| KA6TTV | 145 / 145 |
| K6OGO | 142 / 142 |
| W6EA | 138 / 138 |
| W6WVW | 134 / 134 |
| W4EF | 132 / 132 |
| K6LX | 125 / 125 |
| WA6NOL | 112 / 111 |
| NZ6L | 27 / 27 |

If you have any information to post please email me: N6RV@SCDXC.ORG

SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

Comments, Announcements, and Interesting Tid-Bits Submitted by Members

SUNSPOTS ARE GOING AWAY FOR GOOD!! (W6MPB)

Urban forwarded an article regarding new solar weather predictions. I wonder if the scientists have changed their conclusions now that spots are appearing.

TWO ASTRONOMERS PREDICT SUNSPOTS WILL SOON COMPLETELY DISAPPEAR!

The article, written by Norm Seeley, KI7UP, describes the research of two solar astronomers, Bill Livingston and Matt Penn, of the National Solar Observatory in Tucson, Arizona. They have discovered that the intensity of the sunspots which are magnetic fields on the surface of the sun are waning and may disappear as early as 2015. The link to the article has expired. I found a technical discussion on the subject at the NASA website below:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/03sep_sunspots.htm

A NOTE FROM RANDY, W6SJ, REGARDING DX ATLAS (N6HC)

Dear SCDXCers,

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to talk about DXpeditions Lite at the meeting this week. I appreciate Arnie extending the invitation and I was especially appreciative of your warm reception.

During my presentation, I showed a globe from a program no one seemed familiar with, the name of which I had forgotten at the time. It is DX Atlas and is one of a slew of programs available from VE3NEA. Check this website <http://www.dxatlas.com/>

DXing as a 14 year old made me a geography nut, a category I really enjoy when it comes up on *Jeopardy*. This program would be interesting to me even if I weren't a DXer but it is extraordinary to see how often I refer to this program. You can download the trial version of this or any other of Alex's programs.

Give them a try and see if you agree.

73

Randy W6SJ

(I agree completely with Randy's assessment. In fact I used the Mercator projection from DX Atlas in the CQWW SSB article in later in this newsletter. DX Atlas is linked to my logging program and it is an invaluable tool! N6RV)

MEMBER PROFILE

Dick Martin - W6WVW
Mission Viejo, CA
rmartin8@cox.net



By Arnie Shatz, N6HC
Vice-President, Southern California DX Club
N6HC@aol.com

Dick Martin was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1938. He moved to Southern California from New Hampshire in 1991. He is married and has twin children.

After a stint in the Navy, he attended evening classes at UMass. He has worked in the Semiconductor industry all his life in engineering and management positions. He retired from Microsemi in Santa Ana in 2003. He now works part time.

Dick's interest in amateur radio began when his Uncle, W1OHZ (SK), brought him to a meeting of the local club and introduced him to short wave listening with an HRO 5 receiver. Dick mastered the code and General class license requirements and became W1WVW in 1952. Passing the General class test on his first try was a highlight of his radio career. His first station consisted of a World Radio Labs Globe Trotter, a random length wire antenna and a pocket full of crystals. Receiving was accomplished with a Hallicrafters S40 that was eventually replaced with a National 240D.

After high school Dick, joined the United States Navy in 1956 and attended Electronics and Submarine schools. He then spent 3 years operating and servicing communications, radar, countermeasures and sonar equipment. Dick relates that he discovered a ham radio station at the Great Lakes Electronics School in the Marine Corps Barracks; the station had a

BC610 transmitter (TVI generator). He received authorization to use the station and one evening he proceeded to "fire up" the BC610. The effects on local TV were devastating and he soon found a delegation of angry Marines at the door of the shack that presented him with an offer he could not refuse. That experience cooled his enthusiasm for ham radio and he drifted off to other interests for 48 years. His license lapsed in 1957.

After retirement in 2004 he reclaimed his General Class licensed as KG6YAE and upgraded to Extra Class status shortly thereafter. The vanity call sign program permitted him to receive the W6WVW call sign.

During his 48-year hiatus, his hobbies consisted of woodworking, large format black and white landscape photography, reading history (primarily WWII), bench-rest target shooting and ammunition reloading.

Dick joined the Southern California DX Club in 2008. He holds DXCC awards for CW and 20 meters. He is a member of Fists (#11313) and has an ARRL CW proficiency certificate for 25 WPM that he earned in 1952.

As his community restricts outdoor antennas, he has managed to hide a stealth 20-meter dipole in the trees around his house. His transceiver is a Yaesu Mark V driving a Quadra amplifier with a Palstar antenna tuner. He also has some boat anchors including a Collins 51J-4 and a National HRO-50.



Dick enjoys chasing DX and IOTAs. He loves collecting QSL cards and spends hours in radiosport. He anticipates that he will be more active in the club in the coming years. It is great to have you in the fold, Dick.

CQWW DX SSB CONTEST STRATEGY

0000 UTC, October 24 through 2359 UTC, October 25

A Great Opportunity to Work New Ones and Have Fun

By Bill Kendrick, N6RV
Editor, Southern California DX Club
n6rv@scdxc.org

Contest season is upon us! Even with the lack of sunspots there will be opportunities to snag new band countries. Activity before and after the contests from stations in field is an added plus. Many will be travelling to operate from DX locations and many otherwise inactive DX stations will also be active! Add in the seasonal propagation improvement and we have a great chance to increase our standings.

Predictions were ran for a moderate size station in the Los Angeles area using Shel Shallon's (W6EL) propagation program, W6ELProp. The current solar flux index (SFI) of 69 and a K index of 1 was used. An SFI improvement could make this analysis a little out of date. The station parameters were set to model the gain a dipole on 80, a 2 element yagi on 40, and a three element tribander on 20 through 10. The transmit power was increased 12 dB from the program default value of 100 Watts to 1500 Watts. Two complete cases were run. Case 1 is with a 1.5 degree minimum angle of arrival. In Case 2 the angle is set to match the lower -10 dB point of the elevation pattern for an antenna at 65 feet height. Finally, the Residential ambient noise environment parameter was selected. If you have a low noise receiving antenna on the low bands, have a quiet location or you are running lower power you may want to take that into account.

The propagation charts for the two cases are included below. The numbers on the chart indicate received SNR. If you are fortunate to live on a very high peak surrounded by ocean with several antennas at varying heights case 1 chart may be useful. For us flatlanders case 2 chart is indicative of what to expect. The case 1 chart is not totally useless though. It is a good indicator for low probability openings.

Only the times with the highest probability were used (e.g. A (75%-100%) for 80 through 20 and B(50%-75%) , C(25%-50%) , D(1%-25%) for 15 and 10). Openings on 10 and 15 are shown with higher signal strengths than 80 through 20 however the probability of occurrence is lower. That said last year there was a European opening on 15 which the prediction indicated at less than 25%.

Another byproduct of selecting only the highest probability periods is that there are times, particularly around the ones shown, that propagation could occur and the signal levels could be higher. This was true for most of the cases on 20 -10. Typically the highest probability and signal levels coincided on 80 and 40 meters. Again, the European opening on 20 for the CQWW RTTY DX contest last month extended well into the afternoon where the predictions were below 25%.

From the two charts a strategy for the contest was built. This tool reminds me of the crib sheets we were allowed to use during college exams. The preparation of the sheet may be more important than its use. Nevertheless there will be slow times when you are at a loss and it will be handy to have this outline available. Furthermore, if you are even slightly serious about the contest you will want to know the times to pick up the extra multipliers.

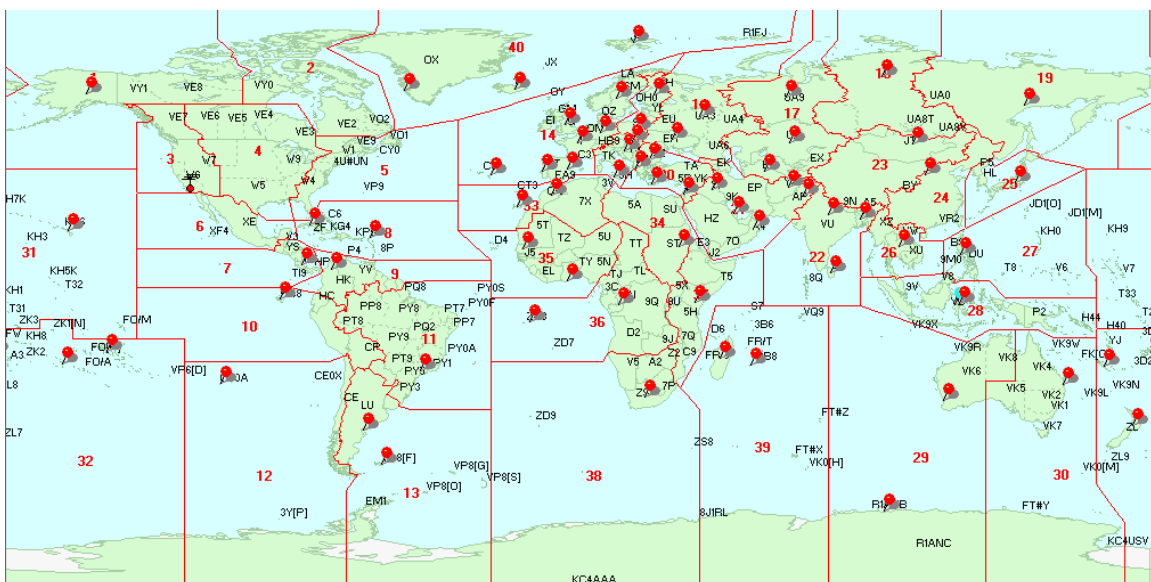
| 2009 CQWW DX SSB CONTEST STRATEGY | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Legend | | Eu - Europe Afr - Arica IO - Indian Ocean ME - Middle East Cas - Central Asia As - Asia Pac - Pacific SA - South America Car - Caribbean | | | |
| Week Before | | Checked out the bands. Look for unusual propagation and unusual times. Watch and search DX Summit for announcements. Try to come up with a trend. Remember there will be a great deal of activity running up to the contest. List what has been on each band and note the times. | | | |
| Hour Before | | Run across all bands and note who is on what band. For this very reason stations usually stake out a frequency a half hour before the start. See if there is any indication that 10 and 15 will be open. Start at the highest band that is open. It may not open again during the contest. | | | |
| LOC | UTC | Propagation | Day 1 | Day 2 | |
| 17:00 | 0:00 | 20 Asia & Pac 15 Asia & Pac 10 Quick Sweep | The beginning of the contest is chaotic. It seems like stations are not hearing you. The competition is the greatest and DX stations want the highest rate. Don't waste time trying to crack a pile up. Note the frequency and move on. You have all weekend to work many of the usual suspects. Look for stations with few callers. Work South America later when the East Coast loses propagation. Concentrate on Asia and the Pacific. The first hour is critical since 15 and 10 close early. | This should be the most productive period for Asia on 20. 15 may already be dead. | |
| 18:00 | 1:00 | 75 Car Afr 40 SA Car 20 Asia Pac SA Car 15 Pac | This is our Grey Line. Run across all the bands. Check 40 & 20 for possible IO, Afr, and ME openings. Too early for 160. For the most part work 20 but keep an eye on 15. For the next two hours it is a great time to pick up SA on 20. The East Coast is off hunting on 20 and SA is in between East Coast and JA openings. | Take a break and chase multipliers on 160 / 40 / 75 during our Grey Line. 20 may also have some surprises. South East Asia pops in around this time. | |
| 19:00 | 2:00 | 160 Quick Sweep 75 Eu Afr SA Car 40 Eu Afr ME CAs IO 20 Asia Pac SA Car | If you have a good antenna on 40 look for the Middle East and Central Asia (UA9). Propagation may be favorable Africa on both 75 & 40. Check 40 for Europe. 20 may still be open to South America, Asia, and the Pacific. | Sweep out the bands. It is a good time to be on 40 chasing Europe. | |
| 20:00 | 3:00 | 160 Quick Sweep 75 Eu Afr Car 40 Eu CAs Afr ME SA Car 20 C As Asia Pac SA Car | Concentrate on Europe on 40 and possibly 75. Typically stay on 20 until the band is dead. This would normally be the time to work Central Asia. The case 2 predicts does not say this however the case 1 predicts says it is. Even the Middle East has been workable at this time up to midnight. | It can get slow on the second night. Pick up bands that were ignored on the first night. Assess what was neglected. Grab the easy multipliers that were missed. | |
| 21:00 | 4:00 | 160 Eu Afr SA CAR 75 Eu Afr SA Car 40 Eu Afr SA Car 20 C As ME | For the rest of the night move between 40, 75, and 160. For the next two hours however sweep 20 to see if there is any activity. There may be an opening to Central Asia and Persian Gulf as late as 0700Z. You may catch a South Pacific or East Asian multiplier that is just hanging out on the band. At the other end it is a good time to look for US, Canada and Caribbean multipliers on 160. | Check 160 earlier. Again many DX stations are trying to hit the bands they ignored. 160 and 75 could encounter more activity. | |
| 22:00 | 5:00 | 160 Eu Afr SA Car Pac 75 Eu Afr Car Pac 40 SA Car Car 20 C As Asia ME Pac | Remember to work Canada and Mexico on all bands. Look for them during the slow times. 160 should be hopping. 75 is the next band of interest. Europe may still be in on 75. Remember during low sunspot activity everyone runs to the low bands. 40 and 75 maybe surprisingly stocked. Remember to look in the US portion of 40. Many DX stations now operate in our band. You will notice that the grey line is passing over the Pacific and Asia for the next several hours. This has two benefits. First people who work will be home to operate and the path will be through darkness which is important for 160 / 80 / 40 | Usually S&P results in running into a lot of dupes. Try a few CQs to see if you can attract some attention. If you have a good antenna on 40 then you may get a response. | |
| 23:00 | 6:00 | 160 Car Pac Asia 75 Car Afr 40 Eu Afr ME SA Car 20 C As Asia ME | This is a slow time. Look for early Asian openings on 40. Also keep an eye on 20. If there is no early opening the Asian stations tend to stay on 20. Again look for the Middle East and Central Asia on 20. | Usually Japan starts rolling on 40. Unfortunately most of the big guns are worked the first night. Try calling CQ. Remember to figure out what multipliers have been missed and actively hunt them down. | |
| 0:00 | 7:00 | 160 Car Pac Asia 75 Car Afr Pac Asia 40 Asia Afr SA Car 20 C As Asia ME | Asia on 40 and 75 should be in full swing. This will run almost all through the night. 20 should be dead but never count it out. Last year 160 was really hopping! Look for Japan and the Pacific there. Japan on 160 should be workable for the next several hours. They are weak but there. | Keep on the Pacific and Asia on 160 / 75 / 40 | |
| 1:00 | 8:00 | 160 Car Pac Asia 75 Car Afr Pac SA Asia 40 Asia Afr SA Car | Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. | Keep on the Pacific and Asia on 160 / 75 / 40 | |
| 2:00 | 9:00 | 160 Car Pac Asia 75 Car Afr Pac Asia 40 Asia Afr SA Car | Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. | Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise. | |
| 3:00 | 10:00 | 160 Car Pac Asia 75 Car Pac Asia 40 Asia SA Car | Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. | Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise. | |

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|-------|-------|--|---|---|
| 4:00 | 11:00 | 160 Car Pac Asia 75 Car Pac Asia 40 Asia SA Car | Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. | Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise. |
| 5:00 | 12:00 | 160 Pac Asia 75 Pac Cas IO Asia 40 CAs Asia SA | Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Chance of Indian Ocean and Middle East on 75 | Start on 160 and move up the bands. S&P whatever is around. |
| 6:00 | 13:00 | 160 Pac Asia 75 Pac Cas IO Asia 40 CAs Asia SA 20 Eu LP | Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Chance of Indian Ocean and Middle East on 75 | Again hang out on 75. Usually the stations on 40 have already been worked. Also catch some early Europe on 20. |
| 7:00 | 14:00 | 160 Pac Asia 75 Pac CAs IO Asia 40 CAs Asia SA 20 ME _{LP} Eu _{LP} | This is our Grey Line. You really need to be everywhere. Asia and Pacific on 160 / 75 / 40. Long Path Europe on 40 / 20. There is an enhancement for higher angle openings that occur at this time and stations will pop up in a very small time window. 75 is usually the most productive. Long path openings on the other bands are to areas that you can work short path at night except IO on 40. | Crazy time. 75 may have some real interesting stuff right around sunrise. 40 may have LP. It is the best time to work ME (after early evening) on 20. |
| 8:00 | 15:00 | 20 ME _{LP} Eu _{LP} IO _{LP} ME _{LP} 15 Quick Scan | After the Grey Line rush the propagation folds down to Long Path on 20 and some 15 Caribbean and South America. Over the next few hours European stations starting from Eastern Europe to Western Europe will pop in and drop off as the Grey Line passes over them. At the end of the opening usually Iceland and Scandinavia show up. Actually Northern Europe is around well into the afternoon. During CQWW RTTY Europe on 20 was in well into the afternoon. | Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! |
| 9:00 | 16:00 | 20 Eu IO 15 Quick Scan | 20 usually opens to Europe before 15 if it opens at all. Spend the first hour on 20. Jump up on 15 and work stations that are not getting any response. They are usually the big guns who have worked out the East Coast in the hours preceding our sunrise. | Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! |
| 10:00 | 17:00 | 20 Eu Afr IO SA Car 15 Eu Afr SA Car | When 15 opens up jump on it. You never know how long it will stay in. Good time for Indian Ocean also. If you can run Europe then go for it. Do not neglect multipliers! | Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! |
| 11:00 | 18:00 | 20 Eu Afr IO SA Car 15 Eu Afr SA Car | Stick to Europe and the Indian Ocean. If you run into another station work them however they will be around until late afternoon so don't miss the other openings. If you can run Europe then go for it! | DX starts looking to fill in their rates with contacts on 15 and multipliers on 10. Spend a lot of time sweeping out both bands then go to 20. |
| 12:00 | 19:00 | 20 Eu Afr IO SA Car 15 Afr SA Car 10 Quick Sweep | This may be the last opportunity for Europe on 15 and it will be extreme Western Europe at that.. 20 did exhibit a longer opening during CQWW RTTY. | It is always the case that certain stations show up only on Sunday afternoon. Also the tendency for Caribbean, Pacific, and South American contest single op all banders is to catch openings on 10 and 15. Finally Africa, the Caribbean and South America will be going on 20 as well as the remnants of the European opening. From here on out the pile ups can be horrific on new multipliers. Nevertheless if you need them this may be the last chance! |
| 13:00 | 20:00 | 20 Eu Afr SA Car Pac Asia 15 SA Car 10 SA Car | Europe on 15 is probably long gone. 15 will now be like 10 is at the sunspot peak. Work South America and the Caribbean and then swing around to Asia in the late afternoon. It may be run time on 20 for Japan. You may be able to run Europe on 20. | Keep trying to crack those tough nuts. The pile ups will be huge but it only takes one. |
| 14:00 | 21:00 | 20 Afr SA Car Pac Asia 15 SA Car Asia 10 SA Car | Europe will be sparse on 20. If you can run Japan on 15 do it. If not then try 20. Otherwise S&P South America and the Caribbean. Usually this is great time but with low SFI it is a quasi slow time. | Try to run Japan on the band you ignored. Do things in reverse. Sweep the band you ran on yesterday and run the one you swept. This will give you the best chance for a decent rate. |
| 15:00 | 22:00 | 20 Afr SA Car Pac Asia 15 SA Car Pac Asia | Peak time for Asia. Also remember to swing the antenna to the South Pacific. The Pacific hangs in until late at night but the permanent DX stations are in and out during this time and you have to snag them when they are there. | Try to run Japan on the band you ignored. Do things in reverse. Sweep the band you ran on yesterday and run the one you swept. This will give you the best chance for a decent rate. |
| 16:00 | 23:00 | 20 SA Car Pac Asia 15 SA Car Pac Asia | The predicts say Africa will peak at this time on 20. Asia should be on 20 and 15. Also this is the time when the East Coast abandons South America and there is opportunity to run South America. Again do not ignore the Pacific. | Here we are at the end of the contest. Time to go wild and run across 10 through 40. Work fast and furious. It is the home stretch. Remember if you missed US zones on 10 move someone up. For example it is not uncommon to miss zone 3. Get a loud local to work you on the bands you missed all the way down to 160. |

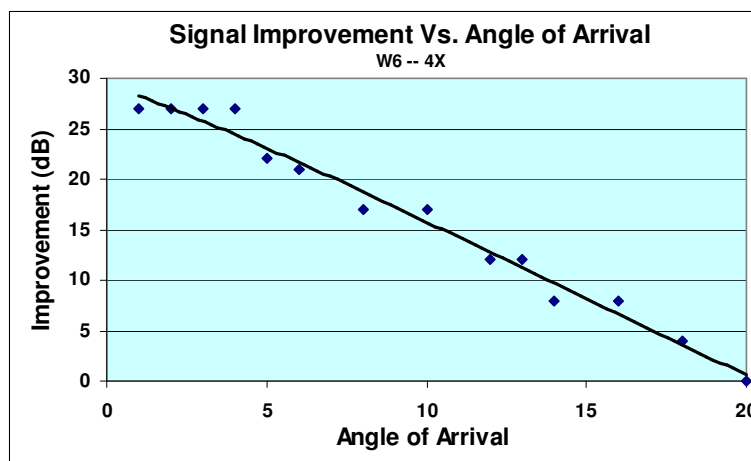
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The map below shows the entities selected for the analysis. Many of them will not be active in the contest however they are useful as a point of reference for a given region.



An interesting result from the W6ELProp analysis is the received signal strength improvement versus minimum angle of arrival. The chart below indicates a 27 dB improvement in signal strength for the Israel path for an angle of arrival from 1.5 degrees to 20 degrees. This supports the theory that a low angle radiator vastly is better than higher gain at a higher angle. Lower elevation angle performance can be realized two ways. First, get the antenna as high as possible. This typically entails antennas at 2 wavelengths or more. Second, put up a vertical array at a location with extremely good ground conductivity. To match the prediction both the receive station and the transmit stations must exhibit gain at a low elevation angle. If you ever wonder how some meager stations either on the coast or on a mountain side seem to work DX you can not even hear this may be part of the answer.



In conclusion remember that this is an estimate. You never know what will happen and you must adjust to the conditions. That means constantly checking other bands and assessing the situation. That is half of the fun!

If you would like a copy of the two EXCEL workbooks (Case 1 & Case 2) drop me an email. They contain a great deal more detail and would be handy to have open during the contest.

See you in the pile ups! *N6RV*

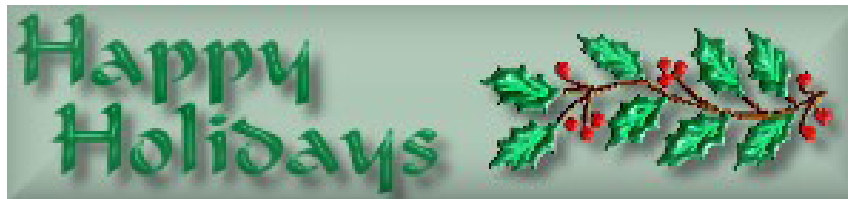
A BIT OF HISTORY

Stories of the SCDXC from the days of yore

Here is the results of last month's picture. The photograph was taken at the 1974 holiday party held at the Proud Bird. The name search generated a great deal of email traffic! Jim McCook, W6YA, spent more than a few hours doing the research. He even made a few phone calls to check on the remaining charter members. Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, Dick Norton, N6AA, Al Friedman, K6YRA, Jan Perkins, N6AW, Glenn Rattmann, K6NA, and Marty Woll, N6VI all did a yeoman's job pulling long lost memories from those almost defunct neurons. In the search we actually discovered that two of us have several years of SCDXC BULLetins and memorabilia. I will be collecting these treasures from said parties for scanning into the archives! Thanks again to Wayne for supplying the pictures.

You know no one actually submitted a formal response so it will be hard to decide the winner. Let me throw this out. If any of the contributors above show up at the Roll and Rye before the club meeting they may receive a complementary meal!





This Years Holiday Party will be December 06 at 12:30pm

This year's Holiday Party will be on Sunday afternoon, December 06, 2009 at the Orange Hill Restaurant, in the city of Orange. The Party will be from 12:30pm to 3:30pm +/- QRM. This year we will be in a **PRIVATE ROOM!** all by ourselves and ready to party. We are looking to get the largest attendance ever so be sure to get your reservations early. If you have been to the party in the last three years you know the food is unbelievably good and this year with our own **PRIVATE ROOM!** it will be better than ever, the food is delicious and much to much. You go for Brunch, but you can have Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner. When we say brunch, we mean BRUNCH. There are over 130 items on the brunch menu, so we promise you will not leave hungry. The Orange Hill Restaurant is a fantastic hill top location in Orange County, about 3-4 miles east of the 55 freeway on Chapman Ave. So you may want to bring your portable HF radios with you, because we may just have a competition to see who can work the best DX from this super location!! There will be some great prizes too. Please plan to join the club and help us finish of another fantastic year for the SCDXC!!!



**Date: - Sunday,
December 6, 2009
Time: - 12:30pm - 3:30pm
Orange Hill Restaurant
6410 E Chapman
Orange, CA 92669
714-997-2910**

Sit down Sunday Brunch (all you can eat) including fantastic soups, salads, appetizers, omelets, entrees, desserts, beverages, etc. Raffle Prizes.

Cost = \$35.00 Per Person - Reservations are due November 23, 2009

**Mail Checks to:
Arthur Holub, K6OGO
13632 Wheeler Place
Tustin, CA 92780-1930**

Cost = \$35.00 Per Person

Name: _____

Call: _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Mail Check to: Arthur Holub, K6OGO, 13632 Wheeler Place, Tustin, CA 92780-1930

Reservations are Due November 23rd

2010 INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION

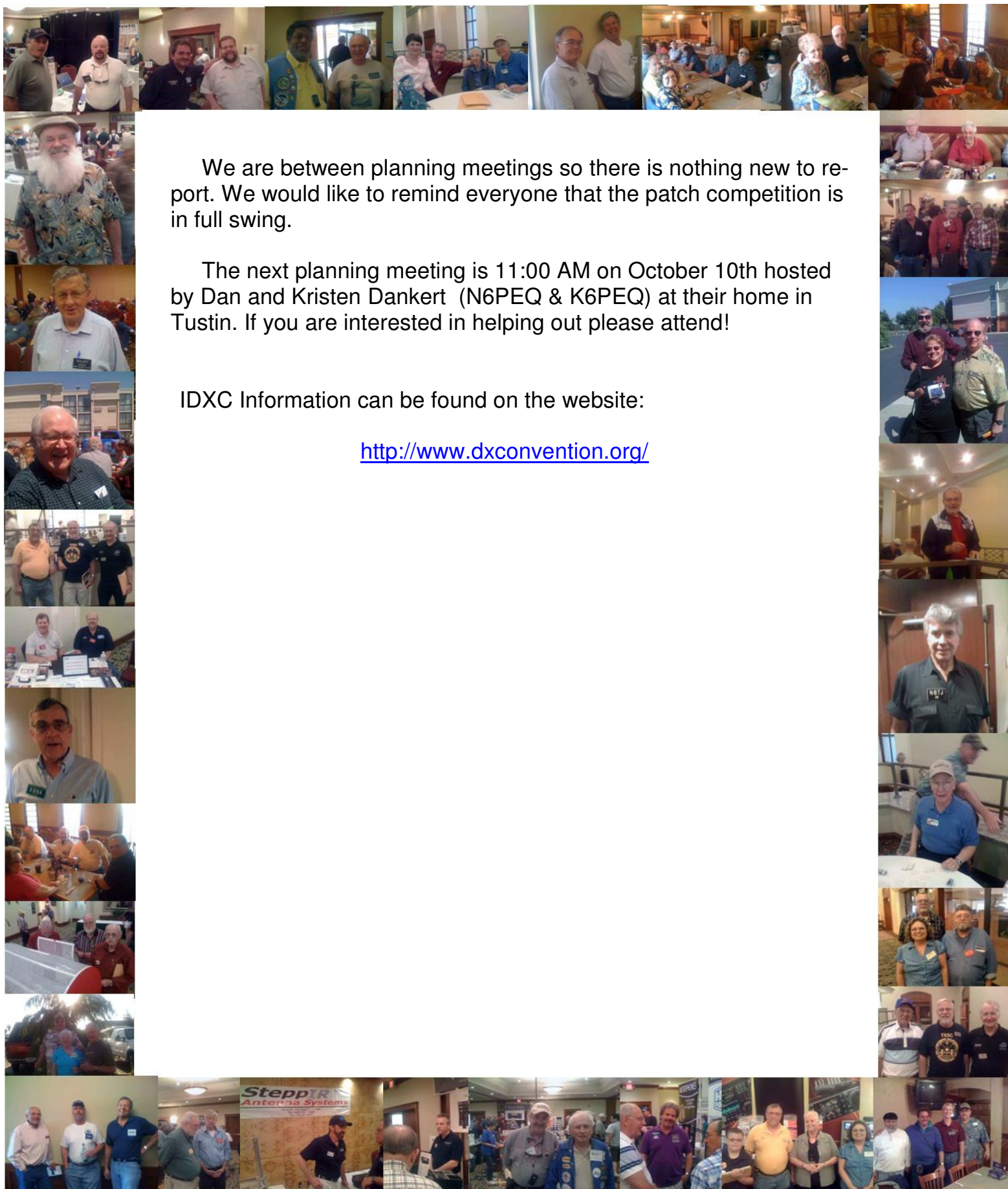
A Great Time with Great Friends

We are between planning meetings so there is nothing new to report. We would like to remind everyone that the patch competition is in full swing.

The next planning meeting is 11:00 AM on October 10th hosted by Dan and Kristen Dankert (N6PEQ & K6PEQ) at their home in Tustin. If you are interested in helping out please attend!

IDXC Information can be found on the website:

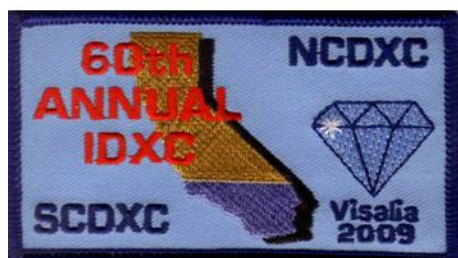
<http://www.dxconvention.org/>



2010 INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION PATCH DESIGN CONTEST



The IDXC 2010 Patch Design Contest has begun! We want to see those creative juices flowing producing the best patch design ever!



The rules are simple. Have the patch design to me by November or at the Holiday Party. We will present the patches to the membership attending the party and they will vote for the winner. Please keep the number of colors down to four or less. This reduces complexity and production costs.



The winner receives a free convention registration!





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